amendment proposed; let him have that trial with fairness, forbearance, and encouragement, and the firm conviction of his (Mr. C.'s) mind was, that the court would never repent that it had been induced to make that trial.

Mr. Cantwell opposed the appointment of Mr. Phillips, though he admitted that it was high time that some appointment should be made; he thought it ought not to be a temporary one, and that it should be done after public competition.

Mr. T. L. Donaldson objected to Mr. Phillips. He was a very good clerk of the works; but not fitted to be the chief surveyor; he was totally without education. It might be well for gentlemen to depreciate education when they were supporting a mere practical man, and say he was competent to the duties; but the man of professional education, possessing the higher acquirements, pre-supposed the lower qualifications of the mere practical man. He (Mr. Donaldson) would ask the court why should it care about the opinion of Mr. Roe as to the qualifications of Mr. Phillips. He totally disagreed with Mr. Roe about Mr. Phillips' report on Stafford-street, Stephen-street, Lisson Grove, in which report Mr. Phillips had actually recommended a length of the third size sewer beyond what the orders of the court allow. He (Mr. Donaldson) was astonished that Mr. Cumberlege should go out of the court to seek for an opinion as to Mr. Phillips, when there were so many competent commissioners present. The reports of this court ought to have enlarged views of the necessities of the districts, and it was owing to false economy in the commissioners that comprehensive views were not often carried out. The court must bear in mind, that sewage had entirely changed its character within the last few years. Formerly only surface water was admitted, then the soil from houses, and now macadamized silt, which was insoluble in water, found its way into the sewers. As to great works, the Ranelagh sewer would soon require a new outlet, and for a mile in length a great expenditure. In almost every parish, also, great outlays were required. In the parish where the court now assembled from twenty to thirty thousand pounds were wanted. The honourable commissioner, Mr. Cumberlege, had laid great stress upon finding a man willing to go into the sewers for hours together: why, Mr. Hawkins had spent days and days in the sewers, and the reports he had made to this court did that gentleman infinite credit. His report on the quantities of soil discharged by the various sewers into the Thames had been quoted by the scientific writers of the day. If the court limited its views of Mr. Phillips to the office of clerk of the works, it would do well; but if from the inferior office he should be raised by the vote of this day to that of chief surveyor, he (Mr. Donaldson) should regret it.

Mr. Broughton said he should not follow all the remarks that had been made either for or against Mr. Phillips; for from his long absence from the court by his engagements elsewhere, he absolutely knew nothing about the subject. But from looking at the business paper of the day, it appeared to him as if chaos had come again. The salary had not been fixed for the officer they wanted to appoint; 400*l*., 500*l*., and 600*l*. had all been proposed and negatived, and now 250*l*. was proposed by the amendment. Then another motion was to follow, proposing Mr. Hawkins at 450*l*. Now, whether 450*l*. was too much, or 250*l*. too little, or whether Mr. Phillips was the right man or Mr. Hawkins, he confessed he was entirely ignorant, and it therefore was quite impossible that he should vote for any of the propositions. In his opinion, all the preliminaries should have been arranged either by the court or a committee.

Mr. Leslie said, that it was only on very great occasions that the court was favoured with the attendance of the honourable commissioner who had just sat down. It was always a satisfaction to him to see Mr. Broughton in his place, as if the court should not always be very much edified by his speech, they were certain to be very much amused by it. The honourable commissioner had said chaos was come again. But as he had been so long absent, he probably was not aware by whom chaos had been introduced. He (Mr. Leslie) had in his hand a return, made out from their own records, which shewed that it was exactly five months ago since Mr. Hawkins, the then assistant surveyor resigned, at which court, on the 3rd of October last, he moved "that Mr. Hawkins' resignation be accepted, and that he be at liberty to leave at his own convenience;" that motion the court altered by putting in the word "forthwith." At the same court he gave notice of motion, that Mr. John Phillips should be appointed to succeed to the vacant office of assistant surveyor; and on the 7th of November, chaos commenced, introduced in the shape of an amendment to the motion for Mr. Phillips' appointment "to consider the efficiency of the surveyor's department;" the votes were equal when the last, of the annual chairman (Mr. Willoughby), gave the casting vote in favour of the amendment. The court would do well to remember that the new system of doing all works under 50*l*. without a contractor was to commence the next morning. On the 14th November, the court voted that the surveyor's department was inefficient. On the same day, Mr. Thomas L. Donaldson and Mr. Allason carried a vote "To appoint a new chief surveyor," and that Mr. Dowley should be shelved under the title of consulting surveyor at 200*l*. a year. Then Mr. Doull, the assistant surveyor, was swept off under another vote "that there be no other than the consulting and chief surveyor." Then Mr. Le Breton continued his chaotic course, by getting the court to vote that all the orders relating to an assistant surveyor be rescinded, and the duties of the new chief surveyor were defined on the 16th January last. Then 600*l*. a year was proposed for the new chief, and he Mr. Leslie seconded by Mr. Cumberlege, carried an amendment to the effect, that it was not expedient to invite candidates until after six months' trial of Mr. John Phillips, whose forms of sewers had been adopted by the court: 10 for the amendment, 8 against it. At the next courts, rescinding and revoting and rescinding followed. And at the present court, the identical motion of which he had given notice five months ago, would, he had no doubt be carried this day by the appointment of Mr. Phillips as chief surveyor, although in the origin, it was intended to appoint him as assistant surveyor. So much for their chaotic courses.

Mr. White objected to Mr. Phillips as *chief* surveyor, but would have voted for him as second surveyor. He also objected to the report which had been printed of the Stafford-street sewer. The digging was too deep, and had the old sewerage brought down to it on an incline.

Mr. Dodd, M.P., declared that he would vote for Mr. Phillips; he was satisfied he was a man of great talent, and one that would soon make up for the want of early education.

Mr. Gunter declared the same thing very earnestly.

After a very lengthened discussion, the amendment was carried. For Mr. Phillips's appointment as chief surveyor, 19: Hon. P. F. Bouverie, Hon. F. Byng, Capt. Bague, Messrs. Biffin, Branscombe, Chambers, Cumberlege, Dodd, Fuller, Godrich, R. Gunter, Hall, Leslie, Mayhew, Pownall, Unwin, Willmott, Wood, and Vale. Against it, 17: Messrs. Allason, Bathurst, Broughton, Cantwell, Chalmers, Crace, Drew, T. L. Donaldson, W. L. Donaldson, Gutch, Hawkes, Kendall, Knight, Le Breton, Moss, Perry, and John White.

Captain Bague, the chairman of the day, then sent for Mr. Phillips, and informed him that he was appointed chief surveyor for six months, at a salary of 250*l*., and hoped that he would pay every attention to the important duties of his new office.

Mr. Phillips briefly returned his thanks to the court for the honour done him by the appointment, and assured the court that it might rely upon his faithfully, to the best of his abilities, discharging the various duties of the appointment.

Fire Escapes.—With reference to a paragraph in a recent number, headed "Fire Brigade, Paris," a correspondent says, that at the suggestion of Mr. Deputy Stevens, the commissioners of sewers of the city of London caused a deep orange-coloured lamp, with the words "*Fire Escape at the Bull*," in *white* enamelled letters, on three of its sides, to be set up in Bishopsgate-street Within, many weeks ago.

EXTENDED USE OF GAS—STATE OF THE MAINS.

The use of gas in dwellings has greatly increased within the last two or three years, but by no means to the extent which may be predicted for it, if the proper steps be taken. Let it be cheapened, as it may be, and *means for efficient ventilation obtained*, and in a very short time a house not supplied with it will be an exception from the general rule.

Builders will lay down the pipes for it in new houses, as they now do for the water, and the community will be much advantaged.

"A remarkable circumstance," says Mr. Rutter, of Brighton (in a little pamphlet on the "Ventilation of Gas-lights,")* connected with the progress of gas-lighting is that, of the many thousands of persons who have availed themselves of gas, never doubting that it was indispensable in their business transactions, so small a proportion, until very recently, should have thought it equally necessary to the comfort and convenience of their families. Those connected with the manufacture and sale of gas are in this matter more to blame than their customers. So far as the consumers of gas are concerned, their apparent indifference to its use in their private apartments is the result rather of passive acquiescence in present arrangements, than of any real objection to further improvements. In many cases the cost of fittings, or the annoyance of having workmen about, may still operate as an insuperable difficulty. Let there be ever so large a deduction made for all kinds of objections and of prejudices, a vast number of persons remain who only require to have the subject brought judiciously under their notice, accompanied by an offer of advice or explanation by a competent authority, and they will use gas in their drawing-rooms, and bed-rooms, as readily as they now do in their counting-houses and shops."

The companies must be up and stirring. If they sleep much *longer*, they will find themselves when they wake at the foot of the hill. Though dealers in gas, they seem to require enlightenment.

Sir,—I have already called attention to the dangerous state of the gas-pipes underground, and the want of judgment and care shewn in their laying and distribution, and will now bring forward a few proofs to verify the correctness of those statements. The pipes of the old companies are not only defective from bad workmanship, but also from age; the pipes of the new companies are principally so from the want of proper overlooking when laid, and to these causes combined may be placed the great leakage continually taking place under the surface of the streets. There are *hundreds* of service pipes that are completely *decayed*, and from which *more gas escapes* than *is used* in the houses they supply, and which working its way into the sewers, finds vent at the gratings, and produces the annoying smell so common in the streets of London, whilst no trace of it is discovered (until the ground be opened) where it actually escapes. The joints of the cast-iron pipes are generally defective, and instances have been known of the ends of the pipe and outlets being left open. In addition to these defects, the companies have more pipes in the streets than are actually necessary, and it requires a considerable extra pressure to force the gas through their extended ramification, so as to supply the various levels. In the Strand, near Charing-cross, there are no less than fourteen gas and water-pipes; in St. Martin's-lane, seven; and in most streets they are equally numerous. To supply gas effectually and economically, only two mains of sufficient capacity are required in a street, one of which should be laid on each side, near the curb-stone; at present they are in many cases laid in the centre over the sewer, and are continually being broken by the sinking of the ground, owing to the alterations and repairs of the sewers; they are a complete source of nuisance to the inhabitants near thereto, and many underground apartments and cellars are rendered unsafe to be entered with a light for fear of an explosion. In Bow-street, for instance, a new sewer was made about two years since, and although every care was taken of the pipes during the progress of the work, they have been a continual trouble

* J. W. Parker, West Strand.

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